

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Meeting**

**April 8, 2008**

## **Open Session**

**Mrs. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee Members present: Anthony Carcieri, Robert Faria, Steven Santos and Mildred Morris (Mr. DeCastro was absent). Also present: Dr. Jacqueline B. Forbes, Superintendent of Schools, Andrew Thomas, Esq. and Robert Silva, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Carcieri to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0. Public session reconvened at 7:40PM.**

**Appointment of Clerk iV Motion by Mr. Faria to nominate Mr. Santos to the position of Clerk, seconded by Mr. Carcieri. Vote 4-0.**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence observed.**

**Record of Previous Meetings ¡V Motion by Mr. Faria to approve the minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 11, 2008, the executive session meeting held on February 12, 2008, the executive session meeting held on February 26, 2008 and the monthly meeting held on March 11, 2008, seconded by Mr. Santos for discussion. Mr. Santos requested that two minor corrections be made. Vote 4-0.**

**Chair¡s Report ¡V Mrs. Morris commended:**

**„X The NEASC committee and thanked them for their work. Mr. Barham read and presented certificates to the committee with the assistance of Dr. Caswell, Principal of East Providence High School.**

**„X RI Scholastic Awards ¡V Citations were presented to five students who received gold key awards.**

**„X The West Side Story cast and crew; compliment to arts program. Many thanks from parents regarding the music program.**

**Student Liaison ¡V Nate Lovett presented a report.**

**Hearings - None**

**Reading of Communications ¡V Mr. Faria thanked staff at Kent Heights for the dinner theatre event and Reading Week; he encouraged everyone to get involved with reading activities at schools. Also, he mentioned an article on ProJo.com regarding a teacher at the high school. Thanks to all for wonderful things happening in schools.**

## **Educational Program Report**

**Technology/Robotics Program - Mr. Daft introduced Mrs. Gendron and Hargraves who presented a PowerPoint Presentation.**

**Riverside Middle School SALT Report Highlights ÿV Principal, Mrs. Forand provided an overview of the report. Commendations given personified a community school. Recommendations were made and the school improvement plan is in the process of being revised.**

### **Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Forbes reported:**

**In response to a letter received from Mrs. Ensign regarding the High Band Program, an agreement was co-signed by Dr. Forbes and the custodial union President regarding an issue which was worked out collaboratively regarding custodial costs for school events. A check was presented to Friends of the High School Bank from the Local 2969. Mrs. Morris thanked the union for their assistance.**

**The School Committee requested electronic communications and staff has been working to provide documents electronically; there is currently a problem with sending scanned documents to the Secretary of State's website. Dr. Forbes also reviewed items with legal counsel as to what can be posted on-line.**

**FY 2007-08 Financial Report ¡V Mr. Capron presented the March report indicating a \$3.27 million deficit; adjustments to special education and health insurance line items were detailed.**

**Mr. Faria asked for an update on where we are with past due bills. Mr. Capron reported that we are still far behind and the cash flow problem is not going to go away; how to determine what to pay is difficult. Utilities are a high priority and essential services in danger of being cut off have to be paid. Maintenance has had some incidences with small companies, electricians, etc. Who cannot take our business. Mr. Santos asked about the deficit related to transportation and fuel. Mr. Capron said he has shown the same amount since the beginning of the year and projected fuel costs going up. Mr. Santos asked if final totals yet. Mr. Capron does not have an audited final number yet; it may be available by the end of April or by the next School Committee meeting.**

**Uniform Chart of Accounts ¡V Pilot Update ¡V Mr. Capron explained the updated system RIDE will use to track costs. With East Providence being a pilot district, he is part of work groups and continuous changes are being made with some frustrations as a result. The accounting software upgrade is going well and his office expects to be fully ready.**

**Personnel Recommendations**

**Mr. Lonnie Barham, Director of Human Resources, presented the superintendent's recommendations:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Lawrence Izzì    Proficiency Based Graduation  
Requirements (PBGR)  
Coordinator  
East Providence High  
School**

**John Held    Senior Projects Coordinator (full time)  
East Providence High School**

**Christine Miga    Department Head ÿV Guidance  
East Providence High School**

**Marion Douglas    Department Coordinator ÿV English  
Riverside Middle School**

**Nora Chandley    Department Coordinator ÿV Social  
Studies - Riverside Middle School**

**Stacy Simmons    Department Coordinator ÿV Math  
Riverside Middle School**

**Christopher Whorf   Coach - Girls' Track  
Riverside Middle School**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 4-0.**

## **RETIREMENTS**

**Mary Byrnes (32 yrs)   Teacher, ESL, Hennessey  
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

**Aurora Duarte (29 yrs)   Medicaid Coordinator  
Effective June 30, 2008**

**Manuela Duarte (20 yrs)   ELL Program Coordinator  
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

**Emilia Faria (10 yrs)   Custodian, EPHS  
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

**Pamela M. Murray (35 Years)   Reading Specialist   Kent Heights  
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

**Motion: Mr. Santos/Second Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.**

## **JOB SHARE**

**Joanne Hall (currently Gr. 2, Grade 2, Kent Heights School  
Kent Heights) and Jennifer 2008-2009 School Year  
McGovern (On parental leave  
from Grade 4, Waddington)**

**Linda Harnois (English Teacher, SHS) English, SHS  
and Lori Kiley-Garcia (English Teacher) 2008-2009 School Year  
(Currently job sharing)**

**Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.**

## **RESIGNATIONS**

**Kelley Richardson Coach, Girls' Tennis, EPHS  
Effective March 25, 2008**

**Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.**

**Recall of 51 tenured teachers laid off solely for budgetary reasons ;V  
Motion by Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Carcieri. Vote 4-0. Mr. Santos noted  
that the action is necessary because of state law regarding teachers  
receiving lay-off notices prior to March 1st. Legislation pending to  
change the date to June 1st and suggested contacting state reps to  
consider this, since it makes more sense for the school year.**

**Facilities Update ;V Mr. Tavares reviewed various tests required in school buildings and the schedule. Repairs of the rear stairs at Waddington School have been completed thanks to assistance from the City.**

**In response to a question from Mr. Faria regarding follow up at Whiteknact, Mr. Tavares reported that they have followed up with repairs and the roof will be reinforced next week. Mr. Faria asked about an extraordinary amount of insulation being stored downstairs at the High School. Mr. Tavares believed it was moved from the Tristram school building. Mr. Santos raised the issue about large increases in fuel consumption and asked about compensation for extra fuel used at the high school. Mr. Tavares said he is working on numbers and comparisons; there are many variables, but they are planning to meet with ATC to review the issue. As soon as we come up with numbers, a report will be provided to the Superintendent. Dr. Forbes stated she will provide the School Committee with information when it is available.**

**Enrollment Report ;V Mr. Rodericks related that this may be the year we stabilize our population; projected the same as last year. Highlights: September 2008-09, 323 new Kindergarten students as of today; number currently at 373; but expects more to register. Enrollment is projected at 5800; 5747 next year; he explained the process of administrative transfers and parental requests. Students**



sometimes cannot attend neighborhood schools due to space availability.

Strategic Plan ¶V Mr. Daft reviewed the revised new plan, additions, and the mission statement. He has met with school principals who must update school improvement plans.

Additions include RTI technology, collaborative teaching, new science and high school graduation requirements, Wellness Plan, PBIS.

This is a working document and we are monitored on implementation of the plan.

### **Report of Sub-Committees**

Representative Jack Savage related that based on the educational program he viewed tonight regarding the robotic program, Salt report, that despite reports, our schools are not failing.

He reported on legislation H-7957 - Education Funding Formula - only RI and PA do not have state funding formulas and PA is close to finalizing one. A proposal has been introduced and will receive a hearing before the Finance Committee. He reviewed key components. Dr. Forbes thanked Representative Savage for support of the School Committee for an education funding formula.

Mr. Faria reported that the Finance Subcommittee will be meeting

**shortly with Dr. Forbes and dates will be given to the public soon.**

## **Unfinished Business**

**East Bay Collaborative Report ¶ In response to a request from Mrs. Morris, East Bay Collaborative officials attended to provide information regarding the annual report, alternative high school, science efforts and professional development. Mrs. Morris asked for an explanation of special education tuitions, the posting of Board of Directors meeting and the annual report. Dr. Forbes thanked East Bay for attending, providing an overview of services, and for their work on behalf of students and staff of East Providence Schools.**

**Update on Dress Code - Mrs. Morris asked for an update. Mr. Rodericks reported that a survey indicated most supported or wanted more information; principals have worked with the parent groups to ascertain if there is a renewed interest with the goal of pushing to September.**

**Middle School Foreign Language Program - Mrs. Morris asked to review the vote taken at the last meeting regarding the elimination of French at the middle schools. Mr. Santos also asked to revisit the issue. After discussion, Dr. Forbes had recommended that the School Committee approve the Program of Studies at a prior meeting.**

**60% of students are not proficient in English, which is essential; we are obligated to provide literacy. With fixed resources, best**

educational research ,and the instructional experts at the middle schools, it is a luxury to have three languages and the emphasis needs to be placed with literacy. After further discussion and testimony from administrators, School Committee and teachers, Mrs. Morris asked for a vote to rescind the last vote eliminating French. A motion was made by Mr. Santos not to eliminate French from the Middle Schools; he asked to rescind that portion of the vote. Mrs. Morris moved from the Chair's seat to second the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, nay; Mr. Faria, nay; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Vote 2-2.

**School Committee Benefits** - Mr. Faria brought this up before and pointed out an ethics issue; he received a legal review and the School Committee cannot change the health care; only for the next School Committee. Legislation being discussed to eliminate SC health care in the state. Mr. DeCastro would like this item tabled until next meeting. Mrs. Morris asked to table to next month.

## **New Business**

**Teacher/Student Recognition** ;V Mr. Carcieri would like to amend regular order of business to include an item on the agenda, Teacher/Student Recognition. He believes it is good to see the fruits of all the labor, tonight teachers and artists were honored and he would like to have this at the beginning of each meeting to acknowledge honors, projects, and to show what goes on in schools

at beginning of meeting for K-12. About 3-7 minutes at the beginning of meeting. Dr. Forbes would coordinate this. Dr. Forbes responded that we can acknowledge recent award winners, etc. and this can be an agenda item to showcase once a month., seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote: Carcieri, Faria, Santos, Morris. Aye

## **Payment of Bills**

### **Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #000812 4/3/08 \$ 630,288.38**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Santos. Vote 4-0.**

**Warrant #000813 4/3/08 \$1,120,498.19**

**Motion: Mr. Carcieri/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.**

### **Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #000811 4/1/08 \$ 231,576.71**

**Motion: Mr. Carcieri/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.**

### **Question & Answer Period jV None**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 10:50PM, seconded by Mr. Carcieri. Vote 4-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Steven Santos, Clerk of the Committee**